

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 25. 1707.

I Took the Liberty to say something in the last Paper, on Account of the Memory of the late King, which I confess, I cannot hear reproach'd without some Emotion more than common, especially having had the Honour to be a sad Eye-Witness of the ill Treatment of his Majesty, even in some of the very Cases these People pretend to blame him for.

I have now another Case before me, which I think with Justice little enough, is levell'd at Her Majesty; if I have any thing to ask Pardon for here, 'tis for attempting to vindicate any of the Actions of the Publick, and especially those which are so far from standing in need of any Vindication, that they are to be reckon'd amongt the most shining Parts of this Glorious Reign.

In the last Reign, says a Paper call'd a Speech, &c. Every body knows, who they fiskion, and it must lie either upon the

were, made their constant Court at St. James's, and we see in what Favour they are as present?

This is a very pleasant Touch upon the Overthrow of High-Church Politicks, and the Honour and Glory of that Hair-brain'd Party, merits to be taken to pieces a little, and explain'd.

Who they were, that made their Court at St. James's, we shall not need to enquire here, I mean as to Names; all the World knows, they were the Blood of the Party, the Ancestors of the Tackers, the Progenitors of Occasional-Bills, dangerous Experiments, and all the late exploded Measures, whether in Court or out of it, in Parliament or out of it.

Now pray, let us examine, how were those Gentlemen treated by the QUEEN? For upon this turns the whole Strain of Reflection, and it must lie either upon the QUEEN,

QUEEN, or the Persons themselves ; and I think, 'tis very material to make the Enquiry, for either 'tis a Reflection *somewhere or no where* ; if *no where*, then I refer it to the Gentleman that made it, to give such an Account of it as he pleases ; if *somewhere*, 'tis either *versus* the Persons to whom the Favour me know'd is shown, or the Person showing it, which must be Her Majesty.

To come to the Point ; at Her Majesty's Coming to the Crown, those very Persons, 'tis no Matter for *Ribaut*, for we all know who are meant, who were their Court at St. James's, had all the Advantages they could expect ; did not Her Majesty compliment them in her first Speech, that they should be the Men of her Favour ? that those who were most zealous for the Church of England, a *World* they foolishly mistook for *Hixby*, Flying and Persecution, should have most of her Affection and Favour ? Did not Her Majesty put her Royal Person, and Safety, and all the publick Management into their Hands ; *nay in a word*, did not Her Majesty give them the *Helm of State*, and put the whole Nation into their Direction ?

And to bring one Question to confront another, how did they discharge the high Trust, how did they act, what did they do ?

Did they not run all things to Extremities ? Did they not push at all the dangerous Experiments, attempt all the preposterous and precipitant things, which must in the End have been instrumental to have embroil'd and ruin'd the Nation ?

Nay, did they not attempt to hazard the very Glory and Safety of their Royal Mistress ? Did they not openly and bare-facedly profess themselves willing to own the Title of the QUEEN, under the absurd and spurious Succession of an abdicated Race ; that being suffer'd to reign only as Possessor, and not as Rightful Possessor, the Right should be reserv'd for the Prince, as they call'd him ?

What was this but leaving Her Majesty at the Mercy of a Party, who, having as it were conceded the Crown to Her only in Courtesy for her Life, had nothing then before them, but to take Care, that Life should not encumber them too long.

How dishonourable ! How unjust ! How unfaithful to the Trust reposed in them, Was this kind of Treatment of their most generous and most bountiful Mistress ? For this the whole Nation has spued them out with Abhorrence, their Names stink in the Nostrils of all, that either love their Sovereign, or are concern'd for the Honour and Prosperity of England ; so much of which is wrapt up in the Life of the QUEEN.

No wonder Her Majesty has dismiss'd this Sort of People from her Presence and Council ! No wonder however they were accepted at St. James's, before their Principles were known ; they are no more seen there, now their own Blushes, and the Memory of their Behaviour makes them willingly avoid showing their Faces, where they cannot but know, nothing but the uncommon Mercy of the tenderest Prince in the World makes their Lives remain unforfeited to the Law, as well as their Characters being universally odious to the Nation.

Is it possible, any Man could bring this upon the Stage, as a Parallel to King James's Ingratitude to the Bishops ? Have these Men been dealt with ungratefully, or have they been too gently us'd for the vilest Ingratitude, to the best Sovereign they ever serv'd ?

For this Reason I profess to suspect, the Maker of this Expression had really no meaning at all ; for I cannot yet entertain a Thought so mean of any Man, below the Character of one that us'd to drink King James's Health, and once under Prosecution for it, that he could mean the People, I am speaking of.

Her Majesty never discover'd more Wisdom, or necessary Caution in any Part of her Reign, than in discarding, and dismissing this faithless Party ; it is the Wisdom of a Prince to be seen in the Choice of Councillors, it can in nothing more be discover'd, than in the detecting, turning out and discarding such as mis-behave themselves in their Service, and supplying their Places with Men of more Probity and Application.

If these Men so behaved themselves, as any Man may observe they did, they need go no farther for a Reason, why they are in no more Favour.

Favour. Now, since 'tis also apparent, and any body knows it, that some of those Gentlemen, who at the same time made their Court at St. James's, are now according to

their just Merit in the Posts of the highest Trust and Honour in the Nation; And so much for the Parallel.

MISCELLANEA.

TURNING the Channels of Trade is unhinging the Settlements of the People, whole Countries, Towns and Families must transplant and follow; whenever Trade removes, *the Manufactures lead the People*; wherever this Carcass lies, the Eagles, &c. will gather. Trade is the Food of the Poor, 'tis their Wealth, their Bread, their Dependence; but the Constitution of the Poor in *England* is such, that I know no Case in which the People are so very open to a destructive Disaster.

To instance in the same Place hinted before, I mean Colchester, which is a great Manufacture of Bayes, &c. if you removethe Manufacture of Bayes to another Town, say, it was to Maidstone in Kent, what must the People do? Why they must follow it, says *Ignoramus*. But 'tis because he is *Ignoramus*, because he is ignorant of the Settlement and Laws for the Poor; for if you carry the poor labouring Man from Colchester, tho' the Maker would be glad of him in the Trade, yet the Parish v.ill not receive him, nor permit him to live there; and as for their own Poor, they are at first unpractis'd, and when they come to it, the other Town is ruin'd of Course.

I wish, the Gentlemen, that drive this Case on so furiously, would consider, what the Consequence of these things may be, and who will be the certain Sufferers in such a Contrivance?

'Tis hard to calculate, what a Blow it wouln be to Trade in general, should every Country but manufacture all the several Sorts of Goods they use, it would throw our Inland Trade into strange Convulsions, which at present is perhaps or has been in the greatest Regularity of any in the World.

What strange Work must it then make, when every Town shall have a Manufacture,

and every Parish be a Ware-house? Trade will be burthen'd with Corporations, which are generally equally destructive as Monopolies, and by this Method will easily be made so.

Parish-Stocks, under the Direction of Justices of Peace, may soon come to set up petty Manufactures, and here shall all useful things be made, and all the poorer Sort of People shall be aw'd and byals'd to trade there only. Thus the Shop-keepers, who pay Taxes, and are the Support of our Inland Circulation, will immediately be ruined, and thus we shall beggar the Nation to provide for the Poor.

As this will make every Parish a Market Town, and every Hospital a Store-house; so in London, and the adjacent Parts, to which vast Quantities of the Woollen Manufacture will be thus transplanted thither, will in Time too great, and disproportion'd Numbers of the People assemble.

Tho' the settled Poor can't remove, yet single People will strol about, and follow the Manufacturer; and thus in Time such vast Numbers will be drawn about London, as may be inconvenient to the Government, and especially depopulating to those Countries, where the Numbers of People by reason of these Manufactures are very considerable.

An eminent Instance of this we have in the present Trade to Muscovy, which however design'd for an Improvement to the English Nation, and boasted of as such, appears to be converted into a Monopoly, and proves injurious and destructive to the Nation. The Persons concern'd, removing and carrying out our People to teach that impolished Nation the Improvements they are capable of.